

# Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program

KPAP: THE SMALL PROGRAM WITH A BIG IMPACT



**SPOTLIGHT:** Prescription Drug Affordability

**SOLUTION:** Enable and expand community-based efforts to enroll eligible Kentuckians in prescription assistance programs

## LEGISLATIVE LEGACY

- Introduced by Jimmie Lee, Kentucky Representative and chair of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee
- Cabinet for Health and Family Services annual line item of \$600K
- Bipartisan support from both chambers and every Kentucky governor since the program launched in 2009

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

- Expand local capacity without duplicating efforts
- Partner with individuals and organizations already active in underserved communities, including county health departments, hospitals, food pantries and faith-based organizations

## HOW IT WORKS

- KPAP supports a statewide toll free hotline and licenses software that identifies free or reduced cost prescription programs offered by manufacturers, retailers and other sponsors
- Callers are connected with a local KPAP volunteer advocate
- KPAP's trained advocates serve as navigators, helping Kentuckians enroll in prescription assistance and find other needed support
- Read all about KPAP at:  
<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dpqi/hcab/Pages/kpap.aspx>

## ANNUAL SUCCESS METRICS

**\$43 million**  
in free or reduced  
cost prescriptions

**70x**  
value on state  
investment

**3700** people  
assisted

**200**  
KPAP trained  
advocates serving  
all 120 counties



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Visit [diabetesleadership.org](http://diabetesleadership.org) for model bills and other tools for legislators and health advocates

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### LEGISLATIVE LEGACY

When Kentucky Representative Jimmie Lee's constituents said they couldn't afford their prescriptions, he knew he had to do something about it. As Chair of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, he also knew the state budget was tight. Lee found the answer he was looking for at HEART USA, a volunteer-run program helping local residents access free and reduced cost medicines provided by manufacturers, retailers, foundations, non-profits and other sponsors.

In 2008/9, Lee helped expand the model statewide launching the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program (KPAP). Today KPAP is **helping more than 3,700 Kentuckians access \$43 million in free and reduced cost medications** in a single year. KPAP's efficient deployment of its annual \$600K appropriation could make it the only state program across the nation to deliver **70-times value on investment**. Thanks to Lee, Kentucky is prudently stewarding its fiscal resources while helping uninsured and underinsured residents afford prescriptions to manage their diabetes, heart disease and other health conditions.

### STATE & LOCAL COLLABORATION

KPAP helps community-based advocates and organizations **expand their capacity without duplicating efforts**. The program provides ongoing advocate training and support for partner sites in all 120 Kentucky counties. KPAP operates a **statewide toll free hotline** and connects each caller with a local partner who **serves as a navigator**. KPAP-trained advocates meet in-person or virtually with the caller to understand their assistance needs. Advocates can then use **KPAP-licensed software** to identify assistance programs, copay cards and other resources to reduce prescription costs. The software **streamlines enrollment** in multiple prescription assistance programs, and works in tandem with the state's "kynect" system for individuals who are eligible but not yet enrolled in other state assistance programs like Medicaid or CHIP.

KPAP is currently staffed by 2 FTEs and a part-time contractor. Three community consultants are contracted through KPAP partner organizations to serve as trainers and program liaisons for 200 community-based advocates throughout the state. KPAP hosts weekly virtual office hours, monthly training sessions on the software program, and individual training and troubleshooting as needed.

### FUTURE EXPANSION

Public awareness is one of the biggest barriers to scaling the program. KPAP leadership commits the lion's share of its funding to deliver services so there isn't much left over for marketing and advertising. Future plans are to secure resources needed to increase awareness of this amazing state program and fund capacity building grants or awards for KPAP's community-based partners.

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